

may act as a strainer to prevent hard portions of food, bones and chiton, from passing into the intestines until softened by digestion. Grebes which feed on hard substances have more feathers in the stomach and those which contain soft food have less. The great destruction of Grebes for millinery purposes prior to 1903 is also referred to though at the present time Dr. Wetmore thinks that these birds have largely recovered from this slaughter. Now, however, they face a more dangerous condition in the extensive draining of marsh lands and ponds which if not checked will drive away or exterminate many of our birds.—W. S.

**Wetmore on Fossil Birds.**—Collections in the American Museum of Natural History and Princeton University, and the private collection of Mr. Harold J. Cook, all from the Miocene and Pliocene of Sioux County, Nebraska, have recently been studied by Dr. Wetmore<sup>1</sup> and have yielded six new species: *Geranoaëtus conterminus* (p. 497); *G. contortus* (p. 492); *Ortalis phengites* (p. 487); *Buteo typhoivus* (p. 489); *Urubitinga enecta* (p. 500); *Proictinia effera* (p. 504), other bones being indeterminate.

Another collection<sup>2</sup> made by Dr. J. W. Gidley in the Pliocene of the upper San Pedro Valley, Cochise Co., Arizona, also submitted to Dr. Wetmore, contained a number of interesting specimens, among others a bone which is identified with the genus *Agriocharis*, the Ocellated Turkey, also a Grebe, a Teal, a Bobwhite, a Gallinule, a Crow, a Junco, and the following new species: *Chloroenas micula* (p. 13); *Dendrocygna eversa* (p. 3); *Branta minuscula* (p. 6); *Micropalama hesternus* (p. 11).—W. S.

**Recent Papers by Mailliard.**—An expedition sent out by the California Academy under the leadership of Mr. Joseph R. Slevin to the Gulf of California made a collection of birds' eggs and secured a few bird skins and Mr. Slevin made a number of ornithological entries in his note book, all of which were used by Mr. Joseph Mailliard in preparing an account<sup>3</sup> of the birds of the expedition, which consists mainly of descriptions of the series of eggs secured and a list of 32 species observed with dates and localities. A general account of the expedition will be found in Vol. XII, No. 6, of the 'Proceedings' of the Academy.

Another paper<sup>4</sup> by Mailliard describes the birds and mammals seen and obtained on a second trip to Siskiyou County, California. One of the objects was to determine which race of Fox Sparrow, if any, bred in the mountains west of Shasta Valley and specimens showed it to be *Pas-*

<sup>1</sup> Avian Fossils from the Miocene and Pliocene of Nebraska. By Alexander Wetmore. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XLVIII, Art. XII, pp. 483-507, December 3, 1923.

<sup>2</sup> Fossil Birds from Southeastern Arizona. By Alexander Wetmore. Proc. U. S. Nat. Museum, Vol. 64, Art. 5, pp. 1-18, 1924.

<sup>3</sup> Expedition of the California Academy of Sciences to the Gulf of California in 1921. Birds. By Joseph Mailliard. Proc. Calif. Acad. Sciences, Fourth Series, XII, No. 24, pp. 443-456, August 21, 1923.

<sup>4</sup> Further Notes on the Birds and Mammals of Siskiyou County, California. By Joseph Mailliard. Ibid., XIII, No. 3, pp. 7-28, September 13, 1923.

*serella iliaca mariposae* with some tendency toward *brevicauda*. Many other local notes of interest are contained in the paper.

A third contribution<sup>1</sup> deals with the autumn work of the ornithological department of the Academy in Plumas and Yuba Counties in 1922.

**Casey Wood's 'The Birds of Fiji.'**—Dr. Casey A. Wood who has been travelling widely during the past few years spent some time in Fiji and became quite well acquainted with the avifauna of the islands. In the 'Handbook of Fiji, 1924', we find eight pages devoted to an account<sup>2</sup> from his pen of the bird life. We learn that there are about 115 species including introductions and migrants, but that this is in spite of the Indian Mongoose and the Mynah, both serious enemies of the native birds and the activities of men in cutting down forests, draining swamps, and burning over cane and brush. It seems to be the same story everywhere and in some of these formerly out of the way spots the native fauna will be gone before we know it.—W. S.

**Forbes and Gross on Distribution of Illinois Birds.**<sup>3</sup>—This paper is supplementary to one published previously on 'The Numbers and Local Distribution in Summer of Illinois Land Birds of the Open Country,' and attempts to cover in the same way the birds of winter, spring and fall seen in the open country. It is one of those papers which might be classed as ornithological mathematics dealing largely with figures and percentages. Various trips taken across southern, central and northern Illinois from November to February in the winter of 1906-7 furnish the data for the winter estimates. It seems that 6378 acres were covered in the work and 5193 birds counted or 520 to the square mile as against 644 in the summer. The most abundant winter birds of the open ground were in order of abundance: Crow, Lapland Longspur, Junco, Prairie Horned Lark, English Sparrow and Goldfinch. In the southern section the order was Junco, Meadowlark, Quail, Bluebird, Mourning Dove and Blue Jay; in central Illinois: Crow, Prairie Horned Lark, English Sparrow, Goldfinch, Junco and Tree Sparrow, and in the northern section: Lapland Longspur, Crow, Goldfinch, Tree Sparrow, Prairie Horned Lark and English Sparrow.

The species are then considered with reference to habitat and figures given for fields planted to corn and wheat, stubble, ploughed ground, etc. Then the spring and fall birds are tabulated in somewhat the same way, and there is a table on which all of the species identified during the study are entered with the character of their occurrence in each of the three

<sup>1</sup> Field Work in Plumas and Yuba Counties, California, in 1922. By Joseph Mailliard. *Ibid.*, No. 4, October 15, 1923.

<sup>2</sup> The Birds of Fiji. By Casey A. Wood, M. D. Reprinted from the Handbook of Fiji, 1924.

<sup>3</sup> On the Numbers and Local Distribution of Illinois Birds of the Open Country in Winter, Spring and Fall. By Stephen A. Forbes and Alfred O. Gross. *Bulletin Illinois Natural History Survey*, XIV, Art. X, October, 1923, pp. 397-453.